

The Hep C Kombi Clinic

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A qualitative study of Hep C patients and GPs and the barriers to Hep C cure.

Background

- Hep C Eradication is NOT limited by drug efficacy, but by taking cures to the disengaged
- Without targeting the marginalised patients on society's peripheries, eradication will fail.
- We aimed to explore barriers to Hep C cure
- Review of 40 consecutive Hep C patients at Medeco Inala re barriers to Hep C Cure
- Our aim was to define barriers to Hep C treatment and then design a project to take cures to the people in most need
- ***WE looked at patient driven and DR driven factors***
- ***Patient factors***
 - A. Absolute chaos
 - B. Fear of IV access
 - C. Cash flow-taxi, bus, parking, private specialists,
 - D. The public hospital waiting times are long
 - E. Fear of SE'S
 - F. Judgemental attitudes of hospital staff
- **There are DR factors too, but we can chat about these later.**

What we do with the Hep C Kombi

- 1978 cream coloured VW Kombi called ***DJ Funk***
- Fold up chairs and tables
- Team: 2 GPs (roguishly handsome), a fibroscanning RN (world's best), QML phlebotomist (world class)
- Target rich venues: Rough sleeping locations, hostels, drug rehab centres, drop in centres, the streets
- Mornings, arvos, evenings til late
- Publicity through the venues- flyers, facebook machine, twitter
- We run on a 4 weeks rotating roster
- 2 stop shop-Visit 1: GP review, path, fibroscan
- Visit 2: review results, give script, provide follow up (path forms for 12 wk post Tx and GIT r/v if cirrhotic)

Finding Kombi Solutions

- ***A. Absolute chaos-*** Immediacy is vital. Start Tx right here, right now. Two step process. We take the cure to the people that need it.
- ***B. Fear of IV access dramas-*** Strike while iron is hot with an excellent phlebotomist; femoral vein access; let them do their own bloods
- ***C. Cash flow-*** Minimise out of pockets. Provide financial incentives to be tested/treated encourages people. \$20 Woolies vouchers. Other free stuff (toiletries, blankets, beanies, M and Ms)
- ***D. The public hospital waiting times are long-*** Starting the ball rolling on the first visit is imperative. Our wait time is 20 mins, max. Compares well to public hospital lists
- ***E. Fear of SE'S-*** Addressing these fears at the first instance is vital.
- ***F. Judgemental attitudes of hospital staff-*** Come in a 1978 cream coloured VW Kombi wearing pink flamingo Hawaiian shirts + R'n'R
- ***People that own Kombis don't do statistics, we just judge the vibe. But 700 occasions of service. Over 100 cures in first 9 months.***